

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Azerbaijan
Program Title:	Civil Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	112-0210
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$6,470,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,709,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$6,270,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2000
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: USAID's program on democracy, governance and civil society focuses on the following areas: 1) improving justice sector/legal framework; 2) supporting democratic local government and decentralization; 3) promoting free and fair elections; 4) strengthening democratic political parties; 5) strengthening civil society; 6) establishing media freedom and freedom of information; 7) promoting anti-corruption reforms.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$452,000 FSA). USAID will train political parties on negotiation and conflict resolution and mitigation skills to assist in building issue-based coalitions and consensus. USAID activities prior to parliamentary elections in 2005 will focus on issue orientation, coalition building, and improved presentation of party platforms during election campaigns. USAID will conduct 20 policy dialogue and development discussion sessions and train more than 400 members of political parties and independent parliamentary candidates in five regions. Principal grantee: National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Improve Justice Sector/Legal framework (\$1,016,000 FSA). USAID will promote effective and just legal institutions, including the judiciary and bar association. Street law and commercial law programs will be added as new components to the existing activities. USAID will conduct a total of 32 legal professional development seminars for more than 600 judges, lawyers and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives. Principal grantee: American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI).

Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$905,000 FSA). The goal of this program will be to reduce election fraud through expanded country-wide public awareness campaigns among citizens in the regions, educating them about voter rights and responsibilities before Parliamentary elections scheduled for fall 2005. USAID will bring more than 300 international observers, organize 30 candidate debates, and disseminate election and voter education information throughout the country. An international effort will be coordinated to persuade the Central Election Commission to introduce the use of the invisible ink for the Parliamentary elections 2005. USAID will organize a large nationwide exit poll to provide an additional tool to prevent election fraud. Principal grantee: International Foundation for Elections Systems (IFES).

Civic Education (\$1,129,000 FSA). A civic education program will work with the Ministry of Education to create a new civic education textbook, which will be designed for use in primary schools throughout Azerbaijan. Principal grantee: IFES.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,073,000 FSA, \$1,255,000 FSA carryover). Under this new project, USAID seeks to strengthen the capacity of Azerbaijani civil society organizations and NGOs. USAID will work with the Azerbaijani government to improve the legal framework for NGOs. USAID will train NGOs on community organizational skills emphasizing the importance of expanding the constituency base and improving financial sustainability. USAID plans to train more than 50 civil society organizations to strengthen their advocacy skills to engage government

on topics such as anticorruption, gender, elections and rule of law. Principal grantee: TBD.

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$1,695,000 FSA). This new program will work with Parliament to make it more transparent, accountable, and independent through effective management and increased citizen participation in the legislative process. USAID will help Azerbaijani parliament in setting up a new facility, where 124 newly-elected members will be trained. Principal grantee: TBD.

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$200,000 FSA, \$1,454,000 FSA carryover). This media program is focusing on assisting media outlets to develop into sustainable businesses. The program will train journalists in techniques of credible investigative journalism, including issues on allocations of oil fund revenues. Public television and development of an independent regional television network are part of this program. Principal grantee: International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX).

FY 2006 Program: Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,650,000 FSA). This three-year program will address transparency and accountability in the government's decision-making processes at national and local levels. USAID will work with the Azerbaijani government on drafting laws favorable to the functioning of local government. USAID will provide technical support to more than 500 local municipal councils' representatives, and educate citizens about the basic roles and responsibilities of local municipalities. Principal implementer: TBD.

Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$2,320,000 FSA). USAID activities will promote effective and fair legal institutions, including the judiciary and bar associations. USAID will work to improve the competency of legal professionals through improvements in the curriculum of five universities and professional development programs. Activities will also increase citizen's knowledge of their rights and ways to enforce those rights to increase public confidence in the legal system. Principal implementer: TBD.

Strengthening Democratic Political Parties (\$1,100,000 FSA). USAID plans to focus its political party activities on increasing the receptiveness of political parties toward issue-based coalitions and consensus-building. To increase the role of youth and women in the political process, USAID will work to increase their leadership skills and abilities in the political process. Principal implementer: TBD.

Civic Education (\$1,200,000 FSA). This new project will increase public awareness and understanding of citizens' responsibilities in a democracy. USAID funds will be used on formal civic education for primary and secondary school students and their parents, and will train teachers to foster an understanding of civil rights and responsibilities and citizens' role in political processes. USAID will work with the Ministry of Education to introduce a newly created civic education textbook for use in at least 50% of the primary schools throughout Azerbaijan. Principal implementer: TBD.

Performance and Results: USAID has aided Azerbaijan in creating additional political space for citizen engagement. While this is a long-term process in this traditional, conservative, and hierarchical society, USAID achieved some success in FY 2004 including conducting the Presidential election under the new Unified Election Code. USAID's political party strengthening and voter and media education activities produced an active multi-party campaign with public debates on political and social issues, much of it among a new generation of political actors. USAID's assistance to anticorruption issues resulted in open dialogues on the detriments of corruption to society.

Successful implementation of this democracy program will support Azerbaijan in developing a more democratic and competitive political system, where rights of citizens will be respected and protected by the independent judiciary. This should lay the groundwork for Azerbaijan to conduct elections that are more free and fair and in accordance with internationally accepted standards

and norms.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Azerbaijan

112-0210 Civil Society	FSA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	27,743
Expenditures	19,226
Unliquidated	8,517
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	5,301
Expenditures	5,834
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	33,044
Expenditures	25,060
Unliquidated	7,984
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	2,709
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	6,470
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	9,179
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	6,270
Future Obligations	6,000
Est. Total Cost	54,493

